

# NECC

Northeast Community Council

Minutes – August 20th, 2009

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CALL TO ORDER: 7:00PM

**Board Members present:** Stuart Grenier, Bob Reupke, Ainslie Phillips, Selina Metoyer.

**Board Members Absent:** Mary Pedlow, Ron Rivas, James LaBelle, Genevieve Holubik.

**Approval of Previous Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes be moved to the Sept. membership meeting was moved and seconded. The reason for this was that there was some important information missing concerning Sec. F of the by-laws also the late publishing of the agenda. The vote was unanimous.

**Approval of Agenda:**

**Treasurers report:** The balance in our checking account is \$737.51. There were no expenditures in May 2009 and no donations. We have \$203.11 remaining funds out of the \$1,200 donation by ML&P.

The Northeast Community Council is a non-profit organization and receives no funds from State or the Municipality of Anchorage. We therefore would gladly accept your donation of \$5.00 or more.

**Executive Report:**

The Executive Board met on August 7th there was not a quorum so we just set the agenda.

**Legislative Report:**

**Senator Bill Wielechowski.**

- Bill commented on the book drive which was a great success again this year. The book were delivered to Mountain View in the first part of August. He also spoke a briefly on the special session held here in Anchorage in which they were able to override the governor's veto of the Stimulus Package. There was also a successful vote to accept Graig Campbell as Lieutenant Governor.
- Bill also spoke on the issue of Debarr Road. Through the work of Pete, Max and himself they got the DOT to get moving on the repair work needed so badly on Debarr. The complete redo of Debarr Rd. will not be done till about 2011.
- On Muldoon Rd: The project has gone out for bid to repave ect. of the road. The project is due to be completed next summer. He also commented on the money that the transportation and improvement program money. We received a million dollars and hopefully we will be able to get another 5 million more to improve and make Muldoon a nicer looking road.

**Tom Obermyer representing Senator Bettye Davis.**

- Senator Davis was the Vise Chair of the Senate Education Committee and was appointed to a council which is a 15 state compact improves education and offerings for students in Alaska and throughout the other western states. Senator Davis and her staff are meeting with the department of health and social services regarding Medicaid and Denali kid care.

## **Representative Pete Peterson.**

- Spoke on the Special Committee on Energy he and others have been busy going around the state visiting different communities to find out what their energy needs are and how they are dealing with the cost of energy. With this information they are working on a state wide energy plan that will be presented during the next legislative session.
- A question was asked about Price Gauging Legislation. Along with Bill W. and Max G. they have all signed on to this legislation but it is aimed at the refiners and not retailers. This legislation would allow the state attorney general to investigate prices if there became a difference of 10 percent between the prices of fuel in Seattle and Anchorage.

## **Representative Max Gruenberg:**

- Max talked about the cruise ship head tax and its legality with the recent cases in the US Supreme Court and recently from the Second Circuit Court looking into the constitutionality of the head tax and the way the money is being used in some situations.
- Max is working on a price gouging bill but at a different angle and that is to work strengthen the states antitrust laws which would make it much more costly to those corporations responsible for price fixing of fuel prices.
- Max will be looking into installing a traffic signal at Boniface and the Frontage Road. He has received several call from people who are concerned about the traffic hazard when crossing there.

## **Anchorage Assembly Member Sheila Selkregg:**

- Heather Ireland (staffer for Sheila Selkregg) presented the report for Sheila. Sheila is on the AMATS board on issue that has come before them is the KABATA settlement what their looking at doing and it is not a done deal regarding the bridge is get more public involvement with that and making sure it is all is all noticed properly also moving it from the short term to the long range plan. The affordable housing workgroup have been meeting for nine months and their main focus is affordable housing and that is something that will eventually help this area in getting quality affordable housing. The Assembly is still working on the current budget and the 2010 budget. Sheila is asking for continued public involvement in addressing the budget shortfall and seeking ways to save money without raising taxes.

## **Community Activities Report:**

Ainslie Phillips called a meeting to resurrect the old town center committee hoping to expand it to a new committee to get up to speed to what AMATS is, how the money for roads projects is acquired and how it is allocated and what the process is so that everyone knows what is going on. It was also called because in February we were asked to resurrect the committee from the people that were doing the final phase of the Muldoon beatification project which has been ongoing since 1983. Construction has been ongoing since 2000 and is now in its final phase from here down to Bartlett and all the problems to get that to happen. She also spoke on the current TIP (transportation improvement plan) which is not in compliance with the LRTP (long range transportation plan) and it has to be to get the federal highway dollars this is where our money comes from to get our highway dollars. We will continue to have more committee meetings to identify before the legislators and the assembly and as many people in the community who are will to work on this as to what our needs are and we have very little money, how we are going to do it, each person on the committee take a portion and work on it. She also commented that she would like the board to make the Muldoon/Glenn highway interchange an action item that this item is our number one priority in the CIP list is this interchange.

Edwards road construction is almost complete and Muldoon repaving including a new right turn lane at Northern Lights will be done next year.

## **Northeast Community Center Report: By Bob Reupke**

The Northeast Community Center is managed by the Boys and Girls Club, The club is opened from 11 AM to 6 PM they do have a early bird program where they are open at 7 AM. The Club operates on a grant of 181,400.00 from the MOA and is managed by the Boys and Girls Club. However we are really worried about the grant coming up next year. We have a new manager William Andrews. The mall has hired a security/clean up/ fixit type person how will keep an eye on the kids and the mall in general.

## **Federation of Community Councils: By Bob Reupke**

The Federation met on August 19th Jeff Freedman of the school board showed up and talked a little on the new computer system that the schools will be using called the "Zangle" computer system. Also we had some elections and went over some federations business. Barbara Jones from the Anchorage Equal Rights Commission came and gave a little talk. They are also looking for three more members so if anyone is interested you can contact them through the Muni web site.

## **Business:**

### **Centennial Park Community Patrol: Presented by Stuart Grenier.**

We use to have a police officer who would walk with people in the community trying to keep a handle on people who were living illegally in the park. But after he was killed in a accident that kind of dropped off due to a shortage of officers. After the recent murder that took place in the park now there is lots of attention from everybody. I walked in the park with three officers recently once we spoke to some of them they started moving out. We want to form a community patrol to go through the park with officers to keep a eye open for those who are living in the park. I would like a motion by the board to have in place some sort of bags that could identify where they are getting their alcohol at. We would like to take some pictures of these individuals who are inebriates to identify them at local liquor stores. There was some discussion on this issue and its legality.

### **Liquor license - OC Madden (Brown Jug, Ed O'Neal, Bob Kline.**

Brown Jug purchased the Billikan Inn Liquor license a few years ago. Have been looking for a location that would fit our business model and serve the community . We have found a location that we like in the Target Center and we are working towards moving that license over into this location. Mr. Madden also spoke on how committed Brown Jug is to the community in selling liquor responsibly illustrated by the training that our employees go through on a regular bases and the processes that our stores have in place to such as external video cameras on various corners of our stores to monitor what is going on around the outside.

questions.... homeless people and inebriates gravitate to liquor stores they hang out around them, they camp around them one of the vital things they need for their existence ....East Anchorage is trying to get rid of liquor licenses we have a excess of them in our area already and we would like to see less not more....we would like to see that liquor license go to some other part of town. And a high school is just around the corner.

Are you going to close the store currently across the Whaler. No we have no plans to do that. a number of years ago our said you had plans to do some site improvements to that store and have yet to do those improvements. ...We have covered up the windows and have done some painting around the building but I am not aware of the improvements you are talking about.

To sum up this lengthy discussion on Brown Jug's plan for a new package liquor store in the Target mall. Generally the feeling was that yes Brown Jug was a responsible package store operator and that it would be wonderful if other operators operated their stores in the same fashion. However due to the increasing crime rate which a good portion is tied to alcohol in our area it is felt that we our community would be better off without another liquor store being added to the already over abundance (18 package stores) that exists in the eastside already.

**A resolution could not be moved due at this time because of the late distribution of the agenda.**

## **Change to NECC community council bylaw under section F.**

The change was taken from the Mountain View councils bylaws and presented as a recommended change. "In order to nominate for office, vote for election to office or on bylaw amendments. The member as defined in article 5 membership must have attended 2 membership meetings in the 6 months prior to that vote. So what this is going to do is you just can't decide to bring a bunch of people who have never been to a community council meeting to vote. We don't have to adopt this particular language this is just a example. Since a vote on the change could not take place at this meeting there will be a scheduled vote on this at the Sept. membership meeting.

## **Neighborhood Concerns.**

there was a brief discussion on concerns over homeless camps being located behind Fred Meyers in the woods there. One of the members came across a camp where a fire had gotten away from someone camped there fortunately they were successful in extinguishing it before it spread too far.

## **Other important Notes and Announcements:**

1. Presentations and subjects are timed. Brevity is important. Please wait to be recognized by the chair.
2. Please sign in when attending meetings. If possible, choose to be notified by E-mail. **Send an E-mail to [info@communitycouncils.org](mailto:info@communitycouncils.org) if you'd like to receive Council information by E-mail.**
3. The NECC now has a web page maintained by the Federation of community councils. Minutes for the meetings, other NECC documents, and NECC contact information are on line on this site at [www.communitycouncils.org/sevelet/content/23.html](http://www.communitycouncils.org/sevelet/content/23.html).
4. We are a non-profit organization and receive no funds from the State or Municipality. Our treasurer would be happy to receive your donation.